Dear Howard, 7/13/75

This is a combination of progress report and attempt at enticement.

Post Mprtem is going to be printed. Soon. Questions and problems remain but the decision is made and the means, the least preferable, I have. Also the risks.

Tuesday we are in federal court on the third calendar call. The method by which what amounts to a conspiracy between the DJ and the judge is to rewrite the FOIA is clear. Whether I can abort it depends on what I've already done, the last efforts deterred by more crookedness by the same combo. Legal but crooked.

From what the finks have been forced to give me, which is hardly all or any of what I've sued for, there is enough to destroy the obscene fiction all over again.

(As you know, I never file a suit I figure I can't win something from.)

Other needs have taken much time and with some intensity of effort. I have not been able to keep you updated. So, I'm tired, too.

The totality of the insanity of almost all others is what in the end forced me to decide to run the risks now. What was done with the Rockefeller crew may be mild with what has been dumped on the Church committee.

What really makes it possible, the major of two factors, is the development of a new and little known method of offset printing which results in considerable cost reduction. It has disadvantages. One is that I will not be able to use a sewn (more costly and more durable) binding. But I couldn't afford it on WWIV, either. Another is that halftones are flatter, a risk I'll take because I think those I'll use will be clear enough anyway.

Because I am listed in the standard publishing directories, two of the ~~xxxxx~~ seven printers in the country who have this new press (one cost $1,500,000) have solicited by business. Both tentative estimates are half what I'd expected from DC printers and the kind of printing ~~xx~~ I've done. One has been here. I expect the other, from whom I have figures.

If I can't sell ancillary rights in advance I'll use the escrow account set aside for the reprinting of I and III, the two closest to out-of-print. I have damaged copies of both that I believe I'll be able to sell if there are no others plus some of the first print of I without index, of which I have separate copies.

From rough calculations because other costs have to be added to the printers bill this will leave me $2,500-$3,000 shy, barring any personal or other emergencies.

I'll have to make a few other compromises, like lighter paper, closer to the usual commercial stock. But it now is possible and it now is needed.

Today I finished editing the index. Lil will start typing it in strips from which I can calculate the number of pages it will take. (I'll have to add to it later but most new numbers rather than entire entries.) From this I will know the space remaining.

I've not been modest in my planning. I'll have 100 pages, maybe even a few more, for appendix. I'll have to add a short fourth part on the results of this suit and several pages of notes. I'll also need a few footnotes, like when Hoover died. It will be a fairly decent appendix. The problem will be discriminating.

There will be others problems, too. One my tiredness another all the things I can't just not do. This suit, the Ray case, etc.

Of all the problems I can anticipate I think the most serious is that I'll have everything to do myself. Jim will be so deep into the Ray appeal and that in this new FOIA suit I doubt he'll have time to read anything.

There is, of course, much new to be included in the work, like the Memo of Transfer and its real significance plus the stuff around which the book is written. I think I can write some into the fourth part and still keep it short - the overall shorter. I don't mind a few innovations in a hand-made book, like running the text under the copies of the Memo. I can save text that way.

This may not be necessary and I may be able to have a larger appendix than I've indicated by using 45-lb paper. I await the printer's calculations because I must keep the weight, with envelope and allowance for two pages of enclosures below what the P.O. lets go for two pounds. However, the cost will go up because it will mean I'll be adding still more pages (documents).

One of the factors here is an effort to influence others, from the Church committee to the TV nets, to keep them from copouts by having a public record that, no matter how slight the attention, they'll have to live with. This means all the documents I can jam in.

All of this means even more work. So, the question now comes will you have any time this summer you will not have to work? If so, can you come here and work on the appendix? While I do mean waxing it as you now know how to do I also mean much more, giving me an independent judgement and doublechecking me on the annotations?

As best I can plan I'm going to have to start writing after the hearing day after tomorrow. (They are still holding some Memo stuff out but because they are anxious for the press to see the wrong conclusions they have supplied copies to a reporter friend who is mailing them to me!) I plan, without having had time to think through, a short add on the Memo and its meaning; one, probably a decent chapter, on the nuts and the Rockefeller Com ission/Congress; and one on the suit and what I've learned and obtained from it.

It will be a draft only but I'll have to get started.

As I edited the index I made a list of notes to be added and they can be a few pages of notes. I can include some in the new text where they are appropriate.

I do not expect you to be able to come. But I've learned never to assume, so I ask if it is possible. If you had only the time to put all you think should be in the appendix together and draft what you think should be with each as annotation, that would be a very big help. And, of course, inherent in all this is speed when it is, I think, needed. It will take roughly a month from the time the camera's start shooting until I have the 5,000 copies.

While I neither think nor write in such terms, this is a book than can have an influence on the coming elections, nationally and in Penna. I think it not impossible that it can have some impact in the Congress, perhaps be the basis for an honest non-"Baker Report." (Another reason for all the documents possible.)

I am working on ancillary rights. If I can make a deal it will help financially and with sales. But the problem is that even if I had a few bucks there is nobody I can hire even for the waxing alone. The local college emptiest for the summer and the new students I've met all have intern jobs in DC.

Little else new here. We are dogs-itting again, with Cobber, for about 10 days more...I've got more proof of CIA files on me...Lonnie Hudkins is supposed to come again tomorrow (or didn't you know that we have become friends?)...I'll spare you the newest from the nuts....Hope the Phila. situation is working its way out. Without pressure I think it will. Our best,